

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending in the application. With this Amendment, Applicants have added claims 31-37, and canceled claims 6 and 20. Solely to advance prosecution of certain embodiments of the invention, Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 16 to include the allowable subject matter of claims 6 and 20, respectively. Claims 32-36 also include allowable subject matter as indicated by the Examiner. In particular, claim 32 is a combination of claim 1 (before amendment) with allowable claim 7, claim 33 is a combination of claims 1/8 (before amendment) with allowable claim 10, claim 34 is a combination of claim 1 (before amendment) with allowable claim 12, claim 35 is a combination of claim 16 (before amendment) with allowable claim 21, claim 36 is a combination of claims 16/22 (before amendment) with allowable claim 24, and claim 37 is a combination of claim 16 (before amendment) with allowable claim 26. Claim 31 is dependent on claim 16, and is allowable at least for this reason.

As such, each of the claims as presented include allowable subject matter. Accordingly, the Examiner is kindly requested to pass the application to issue as quickly as possible.

In view of the action taken in this Amendment to place the application in form for allowance for certain embodiments of the invention, Applicants reserve the right to prosecute other embodiments of the invention in a continuation application.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

U.S. Application No. 09/818,572
Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Atty. Docket Q63564

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald Kimble
Registration No. 44,186

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060

Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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